

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 00742 262212Z  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8418

UNCLAS LIMA 0742

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO BUREAU OF MINES AND USGS

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ENRG, OTRA, TECH, PE

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING PERUVIAN GOLD  
RESERVES

REF: LIMA A-001 OF JANUARY 13, 1978

1. I WAS VISITED JANUARY 25 BY CESAR JAIME, PRESIDENT OF THE PERUVIAN MINING SOCIETY AND THE PERUVIAN MINING ENGINEERS' INSTITUTE, AND HERNANDO LABARTHE, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE BANCO MINERO AND NOW MANAGER OF ONE OF THE LEADING MEDIUM SIZE PRIVATE MINES, WHO REQUESTED THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING THE SERVICES OF A US EXPERT IN GOLD MINING, PARTICULARLY EXPLOITATION OF PLACER DEPOSITS.

2. JAIME AND LABARTHE REFERRED TO THE GOP'S RECENT INVITATION TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXPLOITATION OF THE LARGE SAN ANTONIO DE POTO GOLD PLACER DEPOSIT IN SOUTHERN PERU (REFAIR). THEY EXPLAINED THAT THE GOP IS HIGHLY INTERESTED IN EXPEDITING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS DEPOSIT AND THUS IS ABOUT TO ENACT A NEW LAW ON GOLD MINING OPERATIONS WHICH IS EXPECTED TO MAKE EXPLOITATION OF THE DEPOSIT ATTRACTIVE TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS. THE MINING SOCIETY AND THE MINING ENGINEERS' INSTITUTE PLAN TO HOLD A SEMINAR TENTATIVELY TITLED "DEVELOPMENT OF GOLD MINING" TO PROVIDE THEIR MEMBERS WITH INFORMATION ON THE LATEST GOLD MINING TECHNIQUES AND ENABLE PERUVIAN MINING COMPANIES TO

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 LIMA 00742 262212Z

EVALUATE THE TERMS OF THE FORTHCOMING LAW AND THE FEASIBILITY OF EXPLOITING THE SAN ANTONIO DEPOSIT. HOWEVER, AS A RESULT OF THE LOW LEVEL OF INTEREST IN PERU IN GOLD MINING IN RECENT DECADES, THERE ARE NO EXPERTS AVAILABLE LOCALLY TO ADDRESS THESE TOPICS IN THE SEMINAR. THIS THE SEMINAR'S ORGANIZERS WANT TO HAVE A US EXPERT PARTICIPATE TO OVERCOME THIS DEFICIENCY.

3. JAIME AND LABARTHE SAID THAT THE ACTUAL FORMAT OF THE SEMINAR HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED, BUT THEY HOPE TO ORGANIZE IT TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE ENACTMENT OF THE NEW GOLD MINING LAW, WHICH THEY EXPECT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN MID-FEBRUARY.

4. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION: THE GOP AND SEVERAL REPUTABLE PERUVIAN MINERS BELIEVE THAT THE SAN ANTONIO DE POTO DEPOSIT IS OF CONSIDERABLE SIZE AND THEY FEEL CONSEQUENTLY THAT ITS EXPLOITATION WILL BOOST PERU'S EXPORTS BY A LARGE AMOUNT. I BELIEVE THAT BY PROVIDING AN EXPERT IN GOLD MINING AT THIS TIME WE WOULD BE MAKING A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO PERU, ESPECIALLY DURING ITS PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS, BUT ALSO IN TERMS OF ITS LARGER RANGE DEVELOPMENT. THUS I RECOMMEND THAT THE USG NAME AN EXPERT IN GOLD MINING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROPOSED SEMINAR. IF THERE IS NO EXPERT AVAILABLE WITHIN USG, I RECOMMEND THAT THE USG OBTAIN THE SERVICES OF AN EXPERT FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR. I WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER I CAN RESPOND FAVORABLY TO THE PERUVIANS' REQUEST.  
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## Message Attributes

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